

# Community Funding Announcement

## State Incentive Cooperative Agreement

- 1. Authorization:** The Nebraska State Incentive Cooperative Agreement (SICA) is a federally funded program administered by Nebraska's Department of Health and Human Service's Office of Mental Health Substance Abuse and Addiction services under the leadership of the Governor, in partnership with the Center for Substance Abuse Prevention (CSAP) and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
- 2. Program title:** State Incentive Cooperative Agreement (SICA) Community Programs
- 3. Purpose and description:** The goal of the SICA Community Programs is to eliminate or significantly reduce substance abuse in youth ages 12-17 by assisting communities to create and/or expand sustainable, collaborative coalitions to implement effective substance abuse prevention policies, practices, and programs. For the purposes of SICA, substance abuse is defined as the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs, or any use by minors of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs or hazardous chemical substances.
- 4. Total amount available for awards:** A total of \$9,000,000 in federal funding—contingent upon continued availability of funding—will be available for the SICA Community Strategies Program, with 85% of that amount to be awarded to subrecipient community coalitions that will implement science-based and promising substance abuse prevention strategies. Each fiscal funding year will begin June 1, beginning in 2004, and will end the following May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- 5. Funding ranges available for each community:** A community coalition can apply for a SICA grant in any amount starting at \$25,000, but not exceeding \$250,000 for each year. These funding parameters were established to reflect—and meet the diverse needs of—Nebraska's rural and urban communities. Applications requesting a level of funding that falls outside these parameters must provide significant and convincing justification for the requested funding amount.

Applicants are expected to present a three-year proposal. However, to receive funding after the initial year, grant recipients must be able to demonstrate substantive progress toward successfully reaching their goals and achieving the outcomes defined by their objectives. At least fifty percent of each year's budget must be allocated for science-based policies, practices, and programs. The remaining funds requested must be targeted to promising strategies—which are defined as those strategies that have been formally evaluated and found to be effective but have not yet been peer-reviewed. Grant recipients also will be expected to document their ability to continue to achieve and sustain the outcomes targeted in their prevention system and community substance abuse prevention plans after the end of federal funding.

- 6. Number of awards:** SICA funding will be granted to approximately 25 or more community coalitions throughout the State. It is possible for a single coalition to represent more than one community. The approach taken is up to the coalition and the communities it represents, and must reflect the needs of each community. In any case, applications should be a collaborative effort across a broad cross-section of community representatives to ensure that the views, perspectives, and needs of all community members are represented.
- 7. Eligible applicants:** Eligible applicants are broad-based coalitions applying on behalf of one or more communities. For purposes of this RFA, a community is defined as “an administrative or geographic location defined by legal or administrative boundaries, such as counties, cities, and school districts.” A coalition is defined as: “an organized group with strong leadership and multiple partners that has a planning process that is reviewed annually and includes: a community assessment; targeted mission; an action plan with objectives and outcomes; and a process for documentation and feedback.”

Coalition membership should be appropriate to each community and should include, but not be limited to, the following entities: public health (e.g., public health departments); behavioral health (e.g., behavioral health regions); law enforcement (e.g., police, county sheriffs, prosecutors); education (e.g., local schools, school districts, ESUs); other infrastructure (e.g., existing coalitions); youth-serving organizations; faith communities; and local units of government. Representatives may include: community leaders, such as the mayor, city council members, chamber of commerce, and/or school board members; clergy and other faith leaders; racial/ethnic leaders; members of voluntary health agencies and other non-profit organizations including hospitals and health care representatives; teachers, youth, parents and families; local college or university representatives; neighborhood associations; and private citizens.

Tribal applicants should include the functional equivalents of these entities. Tribal applicants must be tribal councils or coalitions applying under an approved tribal resolution.

Each coalition must:

1. Provide an assessment of their existing prevention system infrastructure with an emphasis on coalition leadership, capacity and processes; and provide a plan to develop, enhance, and/or sustain that infrastructure (including addressing missing entities within the coalition membership).
2. Conduct a data-driven assessment of the substance abuse problems in their community and provide an evidence-based plan to address their priority substance abuse prevention issues.
3. Develop a sustainability plan for sustaining prevention outcomes following the grant period.
4. Designate a fiscal agent to receive and account for funding. For purposes of this grant program, a fiscal agent is defined as a unit of local government, a tribal government, or a not-for-profit organization 501(c)3.

5. Provide a budget request that is clearly linked to the goals, objectives, outcomes and services proposed for the budget period, and which represents local investment and planned sustainability.

**8. Date for publication of application notice:** December 1, 2003

**9. Application deadline:** April 30, 2004

**10. Date for announcement of awards:** May 31, 2004

**11. Application process:** Potential interested applicants should fill out and submit the “Potential Applicant Registration Form” included in the RFA. Filing this form will ensure that you are placed on all SICA notification lists

Applicants will be provided with all required application criteria, as well as training and technical assistance to assist them in building strong prevention systems and effective community prevention plans. All applicants are encouraged to participate in SICA training and technical assistance workshops to receive information on prevention research, prevention strategies, use of needs assessment data, and evaluation design to help in developing their prevention system and substance abuse prevention plans. A list of these training and technical assistance workshops, including dates and locations, can be found at the official SICA website: [www.nebraskaprevention.gov](http://www.nebraskaprevention.gov).

Applications for SICA funding must demonstrate:

- A clear definition of the community targeted
- An objective prevention system assessment that clearly identifies strengths as well as areas for development
- The existence of a committed applicant community coalition that is able to provide leadership, support and organizational capacity
- A sound community assessment that includes analysis of locally-valid risk and protective factor data and clearly indicates priority community substance abuse issues
- Clear project goals, objectives and outcomes that are logically linked and that reflect priority community issues
- The chosen science-based and promising substance abuse prevention strategies are locally and culturally appropriate, and clearly linked to the desired community outcomes.
- A sustainability plan
- A process and outcome evaluation plan
- A clear management and staffing plan

- A budget that accurately and realistically reflects the scope of work to be undertaken as well as existing community and coalition support and commitment

The deadline to submit an application is April 30, 2004.

All applications will be screened by project staff to ensure they are complete. Grant applications that pass the initial screening will be forwarded to the grant selection review panel for scoring. The grant selection review panel—which will be composed of a diverse group of individuals from outside the State who have expertise in substance abuse prevention, community development and SICA initiatives—will make selection recommendations to NePiP. NePiP reserves the right to 1) assign priority points based upon geographic and ethnic distribution in addition to any score given on the content, 2) require applicants to satisfactorily address areas of weakness within the application prior to funding distribution, and 3) to negotiate other areas of the application design, including project budget amounts and line items. Final approval of grants will be made by the Governor.

**Further information:** Please check the SICA Website at <http://www.nebraskaprevention.gov> for more information as it becomes available.

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